

## New Claims

1. An antimicrobial composition comprising

- 5           (1) a mixture of iodide anions and thiocyanate anions,  
             (2) periodic acid or a salt thereof, and  
             (3) at least one polymer or copolymer comprising as units  
10           (a) 5 to 100 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising nitrogen and/or phosphorous containing groups,  
             (b) 0 to 5 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated co-monomer comprising acidic groups,  
15           (c) 0 to 75 % by weight of at least one further comonomer, and  
             (d) 0 to 5 % by weight of crosslinking comonomers.

20           2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amounts of the units of the copolymer are:

- 25           (a) 10 to 60 %,  
             (b) 20 to 70 %,  
             (c) 0 to 70 %, and  
             (d) 0 to 5 %.

30           3. A composition according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the composition is a liquid composition.

35           4. A composition according to claim 3, wherein the solvent of the composition comprises water.

40           5. A composition according to claims 3 and 4, wherein the concentrations of the components in the solution are

0,01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,  
0,005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,  
0,005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and  
0,005 to 10 % by weight polymer or copolymer.

6. A composition according to claims 1 to 5, wherein the composition further comprises another biocidal active compound.
7. A composition according to claims 3 to 6, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant or emulsifier and the liquid composition is an oil-in-water-emulsion or a surfactant based solution.
8. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7 as a microbicide for skin antiseptics; antimicrobial soaps; suntans; disinfection of medical equipment; treatment of swimming pools etc., air-conditioning processes; sanitation of accommodation for man; chemical toilets; treatment of sewage/waste, hospital infectious waste and soil or other substances; laundry; disinfection of animal housing/stables/machinery/footwear, hatcheries, means of transport; fish farming; floors, walls, and equipment in food processing plants; or the manufacture of aseptic packaging material.
9. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7 as active component in deodorants, antibacterial skin washes, anti-acne preparations, anti-athletes foot preparations, anti-dandruff preparations, dental preparations, impregnated materials, ophthalmic preparations or sterilants.